

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Shell S. Simpson et al.

Serial No.: 10/001,721

Filed: October 30, 2001

Docket No.: 10007661-1

Title: WEB-BASED IMAGING SERVICE PROVIDING RESERVATION

REMARKS

The following Remarks are made in response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed November 15, 2006, in which claims 1-14 were rejected.

With this Amendment, claims 21-24 have been added, and claims 1 and 11 have been amended to clarify Applicant's invention.

Claims 1-14 and 21-24, therefore, remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4, and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Teng et al. US Patent No. 6,327,045 in view of Yamazaki US Publication No. 2003/0208607, and further in view of Ootsuka et al. US Patent No. 6,125,249.

Claims 2 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Teng et al. US Patent No. 6,327,045 in view of Yamazaki US Publication No. 2003/0208607, further in view of Ootsuka et al. US Patent No. 6,125,249, and further in view of Ban US Patent No. 6,332,170.

Claims 3, 5, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Teng et al. US Patent No. 6,327,045 in view of Yamazaki US Publication No. 2003/0208607, further in view of Ootsuka et al. US Patent No. 6,125,249, and further in view of Duke et al. US Patent No. 6,573,910.

Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Teng et al. US Patent No. 6,327,045 in view of Yamazaki US Publication No. 2003/0208607, further in view of Ootsuka et al. US Patent No. 6,125,249, further in view of Duke et al. 6,573,910, and in further view of Fan et al. US Patent No. 6,310,692.

Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Teng et al. US Patent No. 6,327,045 in view of Yamazaki US Publication No. 2003/0208607, further in view of Ootsuka et al. US Patent No. 6,125,249, and further in view of Fan et al. US Patent No. 6,310,692.

With this Amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the method includes "providing said user an option of reserving a start time at which deferred processing of said first processing job using said production device is to

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occur," and clarify that if processing of a second processing job is requested during a time period conflicting with processing of said first processing job based on the first deferred start time and the estimated processing time of the first processing job, the method includes **"providing an option of reserving a second deferred start time at which deferred processing of the second processing job is to occur."** In addition, independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the method includes **"if the estimated processing time of the first processing job is greater than an established threshold, providing an alternate production device for processing of the first processing job."**

With this Amendment, independent claim 11 has been amended to clarify that the destination service is operable to **"provide an option of reserving a first deferred start time at which deferred processing of said first imaging information is to occur,"** and clarify that if processing of second imaging information using the production device is requested and processing of the second imaging information conflicts with processing of the first imaging information based on the first deferred start time and the estimated processing time of the first imaging information, the destination service is operable to **"provide an option of reserving a second deferred start time at which deferred processing of said second imaging information is to occur."** In addition, independent claim 11 has been amended to clarify that the destination service is operable to **"if the estimated processing time of the first imaging information is greater than an established threshold, provide an alternate production device for processing of the first imaging information."**

With respect to the Teng et al., Yamazaki, Ootsuka et al., Ban, Duke et al., and Fan et al. references, Applicant submits that these references, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest a method of relieving competition between processing jobs sharing a production device as claimed in independent claim 1, and do not teach or suggest a destination service representing a production device as claimed in independent claim 11 including providing the user an option of reserving a start time at which deferred processing of the first processing job or first imaging information is to occur, providing an option of reserving a second deferred start time at which deferred processing of the second processing job or second imaging information is to occur, and if the estimated processing time of the first processing job or first imaging information is greater than an established threshold,

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providing an alternate production device for processing of the first processing job or first imaging information.

For example, with reference to Fig. 12 and col. 8, lines 40-45 of the Teng et al. patent, the Examiner contends that the Teng et al. patent teaches "providing said user an option of reserving a deferred start time for deferred processing of said processing job using said production device with said selected production options," and contends that the Teng et al. patent teaches "if said user opts to reserve the start time, setting a deferred start time, storing said deferred processing job during a deferral period until said first deferred start time, and processing said deferred processing job using said production device with said selected production options at said first deferred start time" (Office Action mailed November 15, 2006, page 3).

Printer scheduling of the Teng et al. patent, however, simply allows a user to define when a printer is available. More specifically, as illustrated in Fig. 12 of the Teng et al. patent, a user may specify that a printer is available "Always" or is available "From [time 1] to [time 2]." Simply specifying when a printer is available, however, does not include providing a user an option of reserving a start time at which deferred processing of a processing job is to occur, as claimed in independent claims 1 and 11.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 11 are each patentably distinct from the Teng et al., Yamazaki, Ootsuka et al., Ban, Duke et al., and Fan et al. references and, therefore, are each in a condition for allowance. Furthermore, as dependent claims 2-10 further define patentably distinct claim 1, and dependent claims 12-14 further define patentably distinct claim 11, Applicant submits that these dependent claims are also in a condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that claims 1-14 be allowed.

New Claims

With this Amendment, Applicant has added new claims 21-24 with new claims 21 and 22 depending from independent claim 1, and new claims 23 and 24 depending from independent claim 11. New claims 21 and 23 include, if the estimated processing time of the first processing job or first imaging information is greater than the established threshold,

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enabling the user to select differing production options for the first processing job or first imaging information, and reevaluating, based on the imaging information and the differing production options, a reevaluated processing time required to process the first processing job or first imaging information. New claims 22 and 24 include, if the estimated processing time of the first processing job or first imaging information is greater than the established threshold, enabling the user to allow interruption of processing of the first processing job or first imaging information if processing of the second processing job or second imaging information is requested during processing of the first processing job or first imaging information.

With respect to the Teng et al., Yamazaki, Ootsuka et al., Ban, Duke et al., and Fan et al. references, Applicant submits that these references, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest enabling a user to select differing production options for a first processing job or first imaging information, and reevaluating, based on imaging information and the differing production options, a reevaluated processing time required to process the first processing job or first imaging information if the estimated processing time of the first processing job or first imaging information is greater than an established threshold, and do not teach or suggest enabling a user to allow interruption of processing of a first processing job or first imaging information if processing of a second processing job or second imaging information is requested during processing of the first processing job or first imaging information if the estimated processing time of the first processing job or first imaging information is greater than an established threshold. Applicant, therefore, submits that new claims 21-24 are each patentably distinct from the Teng et al., Yamazaki, Ootsuka et al., Ban, Duke et al., and Fan et al. references and, therefore, are each in a condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-14 and 21-24 are all in a condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either Nathan Rieth at Telephone No. (208) 396-5287, Facsimile No. (208) 396-3958 or Scott A. Lund at Telephone No. (612) 573-2006, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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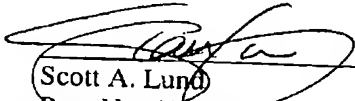
Respectfully submitted,

Shell S. Simpson et al.,

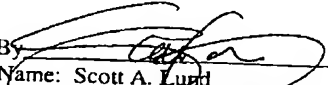
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on this 14th day of February, 2007.

By 
Name: Scott A. Lund